

# CATS

# NEWSLETTER

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The Official Journal of the Capital Area Timex/Sinclair Users Group

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## Presidential Ramblings

Not much time to ramble this month. My present work situation is taking many hours of my time. Then we are buying a house also - selling one too - so we are moving. Since our move will be on the CATS meeting weekend, Hank Dickson will take over for me - I am sure all activities and business will continue in his capable hands. He will need your help.

Our program in March will be about 3-dimensional graphics, presented by Mark Fisher. I am sorry that I will miss this program.

Barry Washington gave us a good description of how he uses Abacus to account for all of CATS funds, last month.

Tim Swenson again has almost no articles for our newsletter. I think we should discuss this situation. Maybe we can no longer support a monthly publication!? Let's think about this.

[Make that no articles - ED]

Even though Sinclair computers are no longer produced, there are still new software and hardware that are available. The Gold Card

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## From The Editor:

Another month, another small issue. If it were not for announcing the next meeting time and topic, it would almost be pointless to put out our newsletter. There has been a serious drought of articles coming from our Group.

At the time when other Sinclair publications are cropping up and flourishing, our newsletter is drying on the vine. We really need to inject some life into our newsletter. (As if I have not said this before :- ( )

Here Now the News:

There is a movement afoot to create a mailing list of Sinclair users on the Internet. This list is primarily aimed at QL users, but others are invited to join. Through mail gateways, users on CompuServe and MCI Mail have access to Internet mail.

This list is composed of Sinclair users from around the world, including Germany, Italy, England, Canada, New Zealand, etc.

Two people are putting together this list: Mauricio Tavares ( mauricio@gauss.aero.ufl.edu ) and Guiseppa Zanetti ( beppe@alessia.dei.unipd.it ). From CompuServe, put >internet: in front of each address. If interested, send a note to either persons.

The wonders of e-mail can help the distant Sinclair tribes ( or groups ) come together. E-mail provides

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## Key Dates

14 March: CATS Meeting  
11:00 Workshop  
1:30 Executive Board Meeting  
2:00 General Meeting

15 March: Newsletter Deadline  
For the Next Issue

\*\*\* The Editor is going out of town for  
a 2 1/2 weeks. The April article deadline  
had been moved up so that the next issue  
can be ready before the Editor leaves town.

11 April: CATS Meeting

## Meeting Subject

Mark Fisher will demonstrate Concept-3D and how he used it. It session is entitled "Concept-3D, The House that Mark Built." Come and see exactly what Mark means by this.

almost real-time communications around the world. I have had running conversions with two users in Germany and Italy. QL software can even be down-loaded off the Internet (from Italy). I highly recommend Internet access to all. See me for ways of getting access free.

The other news comes, via Germany, from England and QLAW. QLAW is a group(?) founded by Dr Sohail Bhatti and focused on development of future QL/QDOS hardware.

They have plans to make a QL clone. Here are the hardware specs: 16 MHz 68000 with 4 Meg RAM, 4 ISA ports for PC cards, 1 Meg sVGA 1024x768 pixels in 256 colors (but Mono Monitor standard), High Density floppies, IDE hard disk, AT-Style keyboard, and a mouse. Cost (not including Hard disk and color VGA Monitor) is supposed to be about £800.

QLAW is looking for investors to provide capital for development, including hiring Tony Tebby to work on the QDOS clone. They are looking for 1000 investors to invest £100. QLAW will establish a full company providing protection for investors via British law.

Investors will get £150 off the price of the SuperQL. The initial £100 will not be returnable.

QLAW is supporting the SuperQL by porting over Freeware programs like Ghostscript (a version of Postscript). Other portable C and Pascal applications are being ported by others (C68 C compiler, Lex and YACC).

For more information, I have two articles from QLAW that I can copy (paper or disk) and provide to others. All that is reported here is summarized from these articles.

Happy Hacking,

*Tim*

only came out in just the last year. What's new in software? I don't know, but it sure would be interesting to see descriptions of what is available. Tim gave me a copy of "Quasar"(12/90), the publication of the German QL User Club. I thought that I might translate an article or two of interest, but I haven't had time to do that yet. Sight reading it did reveal a bunch of available items that I had not heard about.

QPAC2 - what is this?

COBOL is available for the QL, from IECSOFT!?

New C-Compiler, called "PDQ-C", it is reported to be 15% faster than Metacomco-C. This company had problems - has anyone seen this?

MOS-card - a battery-backed RAM disk - I had not heard of this one!

EASYPTR - a sprite and menu generator for SuperBASIC programs - in German!

A QL-eprom programmer and burner is mentioned - has anyone seen one of these?

Video-Digitizer (from England) - it takes PAL input - can we use this?

This just illustrates that there are a number of items in the QL universe that I would like to know more about, maybe you would too. Look at something that interests you and write up a column or two, or three. We all will appreciate it! In fact, we have lots of programs available (CATS library now has 10 full disks in it) that have not been reviewed. Pick a disk, a subject, or just browse. All it takes is a bit of effort. Stuff is there, folks.

Bits and bytes:

The Giant Ham/Computer fest has been announced: March 28th & 29th in Timonium at the MD State Fairgrounds. It opens at 8 AM each day.

CATS maintains a gratis exchange of newsletters with approximately 30 Users Groups across the US, and Canada. Groups not sending a newsletter to us for six months are automatically taken off the list.

CATS BBS: (301) 588-0579. 8-N-1. 300/1200 baud. News and general information, 24 hours a day

Newsletter Editor & Tim Swenson  
Contact Person (703)820-6657  
Ruth Regeley

Immediate Past President  
Cliff Watson  
Members-at-Large  
Herb Schaar Stan Gunttenburg  
Tues SIG on CompuServe: Wednesday night, 10:00 PM Eastern time (GO CLUB)

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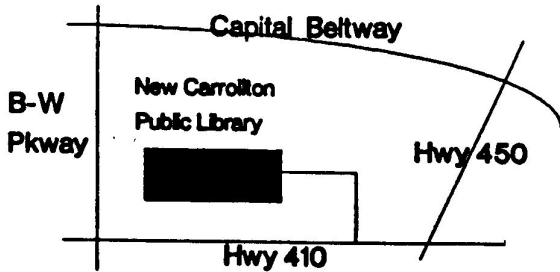
Memberships cost \$15 per year, are good for 12 months, and include all privileges (access to libraries, group buys, etc.). A newsletter only subscription is available for persons living outside the Washington Metro area and is \$12 per year.

The Capital Area Timex/Sinclair Users Group is a not-for-profit group devoted to serving the interests of those who own, use, or are interested in the Timex/Sinclair family of computers.  
Executive Board

Meetings  
Monthly meetings are held from 11:00 AM to 4:30 PM, on the second Saturday of each month, at the New Carrollton Public Library.  
Newsletter

CATS Newsletter  
P.O. Box 11017  
Takoma Park, MD 20913

# FIRST CLASS MAIL



The next meeting of CATS will be held on: March 14, 1992

11:00 AM Hardware Workshop  
2:00 PM General Meeting

At: New Carrollton Public Library 7414 Riverdale Road (Hwy 410), New Carrollton, MD

**IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER OF CATS. THIS IS THE ONLY ISSUE YOU WILL RECEIVE**